

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION

Developmental Disabilities Committee Meeting

LOCATION

Governor's Council Conference Room
3601 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference

Meeting Date

February 4, 2013
10:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Kathy Fitzgerald
Ric Nelson
Kim Champney
Maureen Harwood
Kaleene Lamb
Steve Lesko
Sharon Miranda
James Wiedle

Staff:

Teresa Holt
Carrie Predeger

Guests:

Dave Fleurant

Prepared by: Jeannette Rice
Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 10:04 a.m.
Roll Call

READING OF THE COUNCIL MISSION

James Wiedle read the Council's mission statement: Creating change that improves the lives of people with disabilities.

INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GOOD NEWS

James Wiedle announced that AHFC will be meeting about the consolidated housing and community development plan on Wednesday, February 6th, from 4 to 6 p.m. The public comment period will continue until about mid-March.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to approve the agenda. The motion **PASSED**.

APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PAST MEETING

Steve Lesko **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Carrie Predeger stated that the only correspondence was the PCA and waiver rate regulation comments that were submitted to the Office of Rate Review on January 11th, which is on the agenda under Old Business.

OLD BUSINESS

IAT Nursing

Steve Lesko explained that IAT nursing was being divided into two different rates, local and non-local. The local rate had problems with local providers saying that they could not do it at the rates that are currently established. Some providers had a meeting with the Office of Rate Review and provided data to explain why they couldn't do it at the current rates, but they have

not heard back yet. Kim Champney added that Michael Bailey of Hope Community Services had submitted information around January 1st at the request of ORR, but also had not had any response yet. Steve Lesko commented that they would follow up on it at Key in a couple of weeks, and if there is still no response, then the Council and others could coordinate a request for an official decision about what the rates are going to be.

Proposed PCA and HCBS Waiver Rate Comments

Carrie Predeger stated that the Governor's Council had received an e-mail from Michael Bailey to all of AADD asking that they withdraw the proposed changes to the regulations because the actual rates were not issued. The comments discussed at the previous meeting can't be submitted without knowing what the new rates are. Ric Nelson added that he asked Duane Mayes at the Council meeting in January when the new rates were coming out, and Duane replied that they were still in the attorney's office, so it would probably be about two more months, around the end of March.

Kim Champney added that Randall Schlapia and Michael Bailey have been having a pretty open conversation about it, which led to Michael's e-mail mentioned above, and the public comment period closed January 18th. Kim said that she will keep the Council posted about what she hears after Michael gets back into town this week.

Voting Members on the DD Committee

Kathy Fitzgerald explained that on the meeting agenda, the asterisks beside some people's names denote voting members. According to the bylaws, the DD Committee can have 11 voting members, and they try to select people who are members of the Governor's Council or who attend meetings regularly. Kathy noted that everyone gets to vote, but the official voting members count for reporting and quorum purposes. Kathy listed people that are proposed to be retained as voting members: Art DeLaune, Kim Champney, Kaleene Lamb, Steve Lesko, Ric Nelson, Sean O'Brien, Sharon Miranda, Tara Horton, Maureen Harwood, and Kathy Fitzgerald. With the others that currently show asterisks (Diana Strzok, Lucy Odden, Bob Peterson, Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus, Susan Kaplan), that would be too many, so Kathy and Maureen agreed to be taken off the list of voting members.

Trust Advocacy Summit

Kathy Fitzgerald and Ric Nelson attended the Trust Advocacy Summit last Monday and Tuesday. Kathy reported that the Trust had two main issues that they were bringing to the legislature, the Complex Behavior Collaborative and a discussion of services and supports for all the Trust beneficiary groups. Kathy noted that Key Campaign will follow up in two weeks with a continued focus on services and supports and discussion of rates and direct service workers' wages.

Housing Funds and Meeting with Nancy Burke

Teresa Holt reported that the Council has \$50,000 earmarked for technology to increase independent living that needs to be spent by June 30th, so they need to decide what to do with it. Discussion ensued about possibilities including purchasing some items that could be used for demonstrations and/or lent to agencies to try out. The committee discussed some of the technology they had seen recently, and considered tying some demonstrations into the Full Lives conference in April.

NEW BUSINESS

Legislative Update

Teresa Holt reported that things are moving fast this year, and she heard that people need to get their priorities in before the legislature moves on to talking about oil and gas if they want anything to happen. Teresa noted that Representative Millet has introduced House Bill 88 to remove "mental retardation" language from statutes and regulations. She has already gotten over a dozen co-signers, and her goal is to get every person in the House of Representatives to co-sign the bill. Teresa added that Representative Millet and Senator Meyer have received special permission for this bill only to go through the HSS Committee before it moves on for a full vote. Teresa was arranging for about six people to testify over the phone about this bill on February 5th.

Teresa reported that there are three bills for SESA reauthorization, Senate Bill 17, introduced by Stevens, and House Bills 85 and 87, introduced by Kawasaki and Higgins. The House will decide which one of the two House

bills to retain. Teresa noted that after the Council went to Juneau, these four bills for Council priorities were introduced on the following Monday.

Shared Care

Maureen Harwood reported that shared care and family hab are going to be merged into one service, but the discussion isn't completely settled yet. Ric Nelson added that he had talked to Duane Mayes about it, and Duane said that the services would not change, only the definition would.

REPORTS

Chair's Report

Kathy Fitzgerald stated that since the Executive Committee hadn't met yet, she would skip her report.

Committee Reports

Developmental Disability Program

Maureen Harwood reported that they are in the process of doing the annual DDRR updates. They are still doing monthly draws and meeting with STAR coordinators quarterly. They are working on a "clean-up" to update families' registration and scores. The current average score is 83, with 635 people on the list.

Maureen added that they have been short-staffed due to life events like people having babies and changing jobs, but they are being as responsive as they can with only two reviewers for about 1,600 reviews. They are in the process of hiring a Health Program Manager I in Anchorage, and Maureen noted that although the program has grown, the IDD unit has actually gotten smaller. As of February 4th, they have 1,661 in review, 75 pending, and 111 in screening. Maureen added that she hopes to have the DDRR finished in time to share it at Key in a couple of weeks.

AADD

Kim Champney is the new president of AADD, replacing Emily Ennis. Kim reported that the AADD Executive Committee held a strategic planning retreat in January with Dennis McMillian of the Foraker Group, and they came up with three big goals for the next three years:

- Strengthening the strategic partnership, including the Governor's Council and SDS;
- Improving communications and advocacy;
- Building internal capacity and considering long-term sustainability in terms of providers' financial sustainability and continuity of leadership.

Kim added that their next face-to-face gathering will be in Juneau on February 19th, the day before Key Campaign, and they plan to meet with SDS, have a work session on the cost survey, and a panel discussion on the Affordable Care Act. Kim noted that the AADD is also grappling with licensing issues, and may turn to the Council for assistance as they work through that.

Kathy Fitzgerald asked what the average number of audits are per agency per year. Kim replied that SDS did send out an audit report, but she hasn't had a good look at it yet. Kathy asked for some follow-up, and Carrie Predeger offered to create a SurveyMonkey with two questions requested by Kathy: how many audits have happened with individual agencies and what kind of audits. Steve Lesko added that the State claims that they are recouping more than they are paying for the audits, and it would be helpful to know where that is coming from. Kathy agreed that that would be good information for the Council and the State to have.

Key Coalition

Steve Lesko enumerated the Key priorities for this year, in no particular order:

- Eradication of the wait list
- Supported employment grant
- Complex Behavior Collaborative
- \$1.5 million for Infant Learning Programs
- A real cost rate review, which has three parts:

- Start a dialogue to adjust direct service workers' salaries to a living wage
- Base rates on actual real costs
- Put the community rate process into statute

Steve added that Key's other priorities are to support the SESA reauthorization, Employment First legislation, and SB 36, the "Silver Alert", which is like an Amber Alert for vulnerable seniors and adults who experience disabilities. He noted that at this year's dinner, Key will be joined by people from the mental health field and the traumatic brain injury field.

Council and Executive Committee Update

Kathy noted that the Council has ratified Teresa Holt as the new Executive Director, and it is being sent on to the Governor for his signature. Kathy commented that the Governor's Council has also been short-staffed, and she thanked Carrie Predeger for everything she does for the Council.

Peer Power

Ric Nelson reported that Peer Power is working on the federal paperwork to become a nonprofit organization, and they will hold an election of a board of directors next Tuesday. They are also developing a presentation for Full Lives to try to teach better communication for self-advocacy.

TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next DD Committee meeting will be on Monday, March 4th, from 10 a.m. to noon.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.